



Plant Chat

A Quarterly Publication from the Bismarck Plant Materials Center
to the NRCS Field Offices in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

Spring 2004

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<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

You Are Invited!

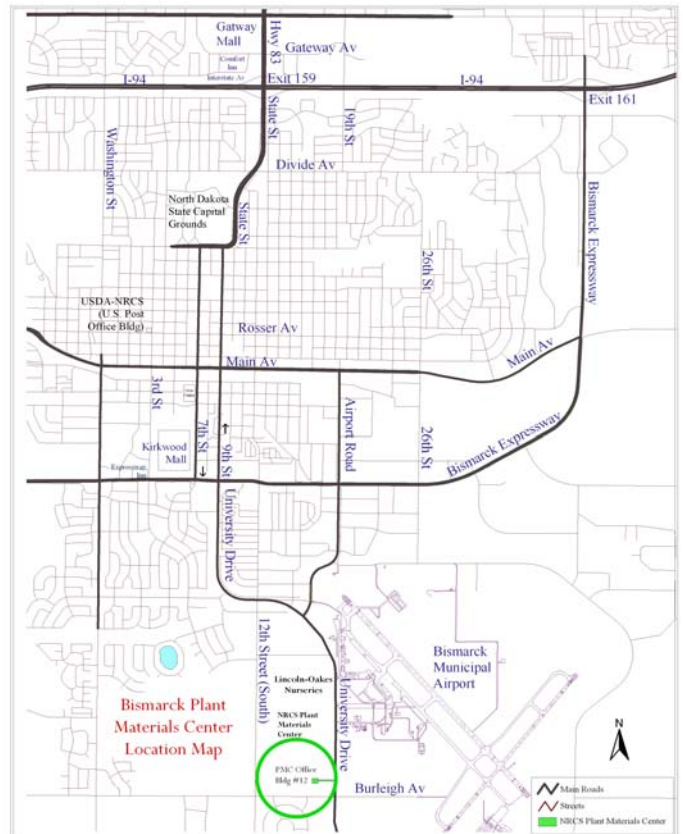
The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is hosting a special field day in recognition of 50 years as an established PMC, and 70 years since its beginning as a Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Nursery. We would like to invite you to join us on June 17, 2004, for tours and demonstrations, a short program, and a catered lunch. This would be a great opportunity to share a ride to Bismarck with District personnel or other partners and have a look around the Plant Materials Center and Lincoln-Oakes Nursery. Various equipment and machinery will be on display. Please RSVP (see next page) by May 15 (print and mail in).

Since the beginning of this regional SCS Nursery which was first located at Mandan, North Dakota, more than 40 new conservation plants have been cooperatively released. George Rogler was the first geneticist with SCS/ARS at Mandan. His first new variety was a native species, Mandan Canada wildrye, released in 1946, and is still popular today. The SCS Nursery was relocated to Bismarck in 1953 and shortly thereafter converted to a Plant Materials Center in partnership with Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries. The commercial value of Bismarck PMC plant releases in 2003 alone is conservatively estimated at more than 9 million dollars. More information on the Plant Materials Program and the Bismarck PMC can be found at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Prairie and Plains Forestry Association Conference

Earlier in the same week on June 15-16, 2004, conservationists and foresters from across the country and Canada will meet in Bismarck to hear leading experts involved in tree planting and riparian forest management. The theme "The Forest of Lewis and Clark – Then and Now" will focus on existing opportunities and future challenges along the Missouri River corridor. The conference is open to the public and speakers and tour stops will include a diverse range of topics from the politics of riparian forest management and invasive species to fabric weed barrier issues affecting tree planting and living snow fences. This is a family-oriented conference, and activities include a picnic at Ft. Lincoln State Park and at least one break featuring juneberry or chokecherry ice cream! Complete information can be found at:

http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/trees/whatnew/PPFA_2004_Conference.htm



Did You Know . . .

- Nationally, more than 425 million pounds of seed were harvested by SCS Nurseries and Soil Conservation Districts in 1950.
- The Bismarck PMC first started marketing foundation grass seed in 1996 through an agreement with NDSU Foundation Seed Stocks, and because of the high demand there is a 1 to 3 year waiting period for most species.
- Thomas Jefferson said, "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."



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Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation Plant Technology

8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, June 17, 2004
USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center
3308 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

8:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee/View Exhibits and Equipment

Concurrent Tours and Demonstrations

8:45 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Seed Processing – Building No. 10

Earl Aune and Mike Bellon demonstrate everything you need to know about cleaning and storing seed. View equipment and learn the lingo from debearding to pure live seed.

Prairie Landscaping – Building No. 12 (front lawn)

Dwight Tober leads a discussion on using native plants in reducing energy inputs and promoting environmental benefits to the homeowner. View various design techniques and learn some of the more common native species used in prairie landscaping.

Black Ash Traditional Weaving – Building No. 11

Mike Demchik, Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota, demonstrates the age old technique of stripping black ash woodsplints for weaving.

Preview New PMC Video – Building No. 12 (lower level)

Rachel Bergsagel and Nancy Jensen provide insights into the National Plant Materials Program. View a dynamic new video where private land-owners use plants to help solve conservation problems.

Foundation Seed Fields – Bus Tour

Wayne Duckwitz and Mike Knudson lead a tour of the PMC seed production fields. View many different plant species and learn various production techniques from burning to irrigating and combining to seed stripping.

Lincoln-Oakes Nursery – Tree Coolers/Grading Shed

Greg Morgenson, Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Manager, shows state-of-the-art technology used in the production of more than 5 million conservation trees and shrubs annually.

11:00 a.m. Program

12:00 noon Catered Lunch

RSVP by May 15, 2004

Name _____
Agency _____
Address _____
City _____

Number of persons attending _____
Special accommodation/need _____